

Canton area and later received her Licensed Practical Nursing Degree from Hinds Community College in 1972. Mrs. Nichols has spent a great majority of her lifetime actively participating in the Civil Rights struggle. She began her involvement in 1965 when she became an intricate voice in the Voter Education/Registration Movement in Canton. Many local mentors, such as the late Ms. Annie Devine, taught her pivotal information on organizing movements towards the integration of public facilities and schools. Her efforts were rewarded in the establishment of Freedom Schools and the successful organization of boycotts and civil rights demonstration in the area.

In 1968, Annie married Attorney John Andrews Nichols, who was Canton's first Black attorney and first Black to run for Mayor for the City of Canton. Mrs. Nichols gave birth to four (4) children: Andrea, April, Alexis, and Adam. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols both pursued positions in public office; unfortunately, they were both defeated. Despite much opposition from the whites in the community, she and her husband continued their quest for equality and civil rights by participating in the March to Washington, DC and voicing concerns for continued funding of the Head Start Program. Through her struggles, she was afforded the opportunity to work alongside legendary figures of the Civil Rights Era, including James Meredith and Fannie Lou Hamer.

Her community outreach expands to a number of civic organizations in which she is involved, such as Founder of the "Let's Talk Cancer" support group of Canton, commissioner of the Canton Housing Authority, President of the Eastside Neighborhood Watch Association, and a member of the Women for Progress. Mrs. Nichols has been honored with Excellence in Leadership Awards and continues to be a model for hard work and dedication in her community through volunteering with the Triple C and the Canton PTSA.

HONORING DR. REGINALD RODGES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life of Dr. Reginald Rodges who in 1997 was the youngest African American to graduate with a doctorate from Parker College of Chiropractic.

In 1998 he obtained his license to practice and opened the Mid-Delta Chiropractic Clinic. During that same year he was severely injured in an automobile accident where he sustained a broken neck and severe damage to his right hand and legs and underwent rehab for a year. He refused to give in to his disability and be a burden on society and in 1998 resumed practicing chiropractic.

In 2002 J&R Chiropractic was created to implement his innovative ideas and philosophies which laid the foundation for the opening of Chiro/Elite Natural Pain and Health Center. This facility specializes in three unique areas of service; herniated disc in the cervical and lumbar spine; fitness/gym; and nutritional weight loss center.

Dr. Rodges realized there was a void in the black community relative to fitness and weight loss in the Mississippi Delta. Through his inno-

vative health practices he has enhanced the health and lives of his patients, and the first in the Mississippi Delta to address issues with the morbidly obese and obese.

His facility caters to a diverse population with varied socio-economic backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Reginald Rodges and his dedication to the Mississippi Delta citizens in his health endeavors. His career has touched and is touching the lives of people both youthful and aged.

H.R. 359, TO REDUCE FEDERAL SPENDING AND THE DEFICIT BY TERMINATING TAXPAYER FINANCING OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS AND PARTY CONVENTIONS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of H.R. 359, House Republicans voted today to give corporations and other special interests even more power to influence America's elections. I strongly oppose this legislation and will continue working to restore transparency and balance to our country's broken campaign finance system.

H.R. 359 terminates the Presidential Election Campaign Fund, which was created in response to the campaign corruption exposed by the Watergate Scandal. The voluntary PEF allows taxpayers to set aside \$3.00 of their federal taxes so that eligible candidates spend less time fundraising from special interests. H.R. 359 eliminates an important option citizens now have to support fair federal elections and takes another, worrisome toward corporate control of U.S. elections.

Many non-partisan organizations strongly oppose H.R. 359 and are raising alarm about the consequences of its passage. The League of Women Voters said the Presidential Election Campaign Fund "has substantially reduced corruption and the appearance of corruption in the executive branch" since its creation, and "has given average citizens and small donors a critically important role to play in funding presidential campaigns and provided more meaningful choices to voters." Minnesotans agree. My home state has one of the most successful public campaign finance models in the nation, one that has provided real incentives toward limiting campaign spending. The bill before us today is a direct contradiction of Minnesota values, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

H.R. 359 is the second major assault on free and fair elections in the past year. The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* declared corporations have the same free speech protections granted to individuals. I completely disagree with the Court's decision, but the result of this decision is now clear—the floodgates are open to waves of special interest money in federal elections. The few protections that existed in law have been removed. In response, Democrats in Congress introduced the DISCLOSE Act to ensure Americans knew who was paying to influence their vote and to prevent foreign corporations

and governments from funding U.S. elections. I voted for the DISCLOSE Act (H.R. 5175) when it passed the Democratic-led House in 2010. Unfortunately, Republicans in the Senate blocked the DISCLOSE Act from passage.

America's elections are for the American people. Unregulated corporate spending and new barriers to citizen-contributions will lead to more of the negative campaign ads and less citizen inspired democracy. I strongly disagree with the drive to corporatize America's elections which is an obvious priority for my Republican colleagues. It is fundamentally anti-democratic to fight to protect corporations' right to free speech while voting to prevent citizens from making their voices heard in the political process.

CONGRATULATING CALLIE M. COFFMAN ON HER 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of my Chief of Staff, Callie M. Coffman. Twenty years ago today, I made one of the best decisions of my career by hiring a young, intelligent and ambitious intern to join my staff. I was so impressed by her work that after she graduated from the University of Michigan I asked her to join my permanent staff. Over the years, Callie worked her way up from interning to running my entire office. On the wall next to Callie's desk, she still has the original letter I sent to her offering her an internship.

It is not often that we get to celebrate a staffer's 20th anniversary on the Hill, especially in the same office. Over the years, I have seen many talented staff come and go. Today, I am thankful that Callie decided to stay and dedicate the last 20 years working for the people of mid-Michigan. Over the years Callie has put her mark on almost every legislative issue in my office. She has been instrumental in accomplishments such as welfare reform, reauthorization of Child Nutrition programs, the Higher Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the reauthorization of Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

It is a testament to her character and ability that she rose to become Chief of Staff. It is not only important to find staff with a good head, but also a good heart and Callie is blessed to have both. I am fortunate to have had Callie on my staff for the last 20 years. Today, I want to thank her from the bottom of my heart for her service, friendship and loyalty.

OPPOSING FAILURE TO EXTEND TAA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lament the expiration of the improved Trade Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act enacted in 2009. By refusing to extend this, the